

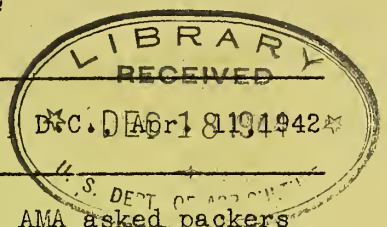
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Agricultural Marketing Administration



No. 14

AMA "WAR BOARD" LETTER

Wash.

D.C. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE  
APR 18 1942

PORK, LARD, AND PORK PRODUCTS: Beginning week of April 6, AMA asked packers operating under Fed'l inspection to offer for sale to FSCC at least 40% of their production pork cuts and hog casings. Action was taken to assure availability of sufficient quantities of pork products to meet L-L requirements during next 3 to 6 months. It is felt that while this increased L-L demand will mean little less pork available for domestic consumers, present estimates are that there will be ample supplies of meats for domestic consumption.

FACTS: Indications are total production all meats (beef, veal, pork, mutton, lamb) under Fed'l inspection from April through Sept. will be about 10% larger than in corresponding months last year. Thus, even with increased purchases of pork for L-L, AMA estimates supply all Fed'llly inspected meats for domestic consumption will be only 5 to 10 percent smaller than in April-Sept. period last year and about same as in same months of 1940. Also, increased meat production in non-inspected plants is anticipated. Total meat supplies also will be supplemented by big increase in poultry. (See paragraph below). It is expected that hog slaughter goal for this year, 83,000,000 animals, compared with slaughter last year of 72,500,000 will be reached. Other meat goals, cattle and calves, sheep and lambs, 108 and 101 percent of 1941 production, respectively, also expected to be reached. These goals would have given per capita supplies way above anything on record. While increased L-L demands mean total meat supply for domestic consumption next year won't be great as anticipated, it will be above drouth years and there will be NO shortage as far as nutritional requirements are concerned.

EAT MORE CHICKEN: Dairy and Poultry Branch of AMA feels this should be plugged continuously. Heavy marketings of poultry expected this fall when farm raised broilers and fryers come in. . . . 17 percent more eggs were set in commercial hatcheries in March than year ago. Expect at least 16 percent more chickens be marketed this year. Chicken in good price position compared with other meats. February egg production at 10,656,000 cases set new record for month. . . 15 percent above same month last year and up 34 percent over 10 year (1931-40) average. Estimated chicken supply per capita is up over 5 lbs. compared with 5-year average; turkey supply up 1 lb. per capita.

NATIONWIDE BAGGING CONSERVATION PROGRAM was announced by Secretary April 11. Directed against serious shortage cotton and burlap bagging and materials, program will be operated thru USDA State and county WB's. Calls for cooperation of farmers, farm organizations, State agriculture agencies and bag dealers. Farmers asked to handle bags carefully to aid re-use and get used bags back into trade channels quickly. Sharp reduction in burlap imports and military demands have caused shortage in bags needed to meet expanded production under FFF drive. Hope to make every available bag do more than double duty. WB's will suggest handling, cleaning and storage methods to farmers. Where feasible, major problem of keeping bags in circulation may be met by operation of bag exchange, which would prevent accumulations that frequently keep large supplies out of trade channels. OTHER CONTAINERS: AMA, OADR, WPB officials meeting in Chicago April 11-12 with Growers and Shippers Advisory Committee on standardization crates and barrels. Hope to cut them to about 75 standard sizes. Means easier fabrication, greater re-use possibilities. Also sought is elimination of small bags (10-15 and 25 lb. sizes).

NOTE: New potatoes from Florida were shipped in paper bags instead of crates for first time this spring. . understood to have handled well. . indications are there will be increased use of paper bags.

COTTON BALE COVER PROGRAM progressing favorably. AMA has allocated 2,070,000 of the 4,000,000 "patterns" called for by this year's program. Negotiations now underway with other mills and is expected total will be allocated before picking season. Most favorable is result of survey to get mills to buy cotton on net weight - allow for seven additional pounds cotton in bales covered with cotton patterns. Replies so far indicate that mills representing 2/3 all spindles in US will cooperate this season. Means that higher cost cotton bale covering be able compete with heavier and cheaper jute wrapper. The 4,000,000 covers provided for by program will take care about 1/3 anticipated crop this year and will ease considerably bale cover situation.

EGG PURCHASES DURING WEEK ENDED APRIL 11 included 3700 cases shell eggs, bought in N. Car., and 21,007,895 lbs. of dried eggs in both spots and futures. Bulk of dried eggs purchased in mid-west, states on line from Minn. to Texas.

SOUTHERN EGG MARKETING PROGRAM: Now buying at 4 points in South Carolina; 2 points in Virginia; 2 in Georgia; 1 (with several branches) in Florida; 1 in Louisiana and 1 in North Carolina. Negotiating with one firm in West Virginia. Still no buying points in Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee or Kentucky. Dairy and Poultry branches still seeking offers from warehouses in these States to handle eggs. It is job of WB's to interest warehouses in co-operating in program. Purchases up to April 4 amounted to 2,100 cases. Base prices in operating States: (On extras drop  $\frac{1}{2}\%$  per doz. for each grade under No. 1. For standards drop  $\frac{1}{4}\%$  doz. for each grade under No. 1.) Louisiana: Extras, 28¢, Standards, 26¢; North Carolina: Extras, 29 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢, Standards 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; South Carolina and Georgia: Extras, 30¢, Standards 28¢; Virginia and West Virginia: Extras, 29-3/4¢, Standards, 27-3/4¢, Florida: Extras, 31¢, Standards, 29¢.

OFFERS OF CANNED TOMATOES AND PEAS FOR FUTURE DELIVERY are now being accepted by FSCC. Will continue to accept "futures" offers on tomatoes up to August 15 and peas up to July 1. Stocks offered must meet minimum requirements of US Grade C for both products. Prices at which offers will be accepted are: Tomatoes, No. 2 cans, 95¢ per doz., No. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  cans, \$1.20 per doz., No. 10 cans, \$4.25 per doz., Peas, Alaskas and Sweets only No. 2 cans, \$1.10 per doz., No. 10 cans, \$5.00 per doz.

NOTE: Sales of "futures" goods to FSCC in connection with this announcement may not be calculated as part of canned tomatoes and peas required by W.P.B. to be set aside for governmental use. FSCC will accept all quantities other than those which must be reserved by canners under the W.P.B. conservation order in line with the USDA expanded production program. Further information may be had from Purchase Branch of AMA.

WATCH FOR "bibles" on eggs and dairy products. Explanation of entire program. Be sent all WB's soon...

AMA REPRESENTATIVES ON USDA WAR BOARDS: Queries or needs for spot information may be sent directly to Administrator Hendrickson, AMA, Washington, D. C.